

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

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USMISSION USUN NY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 15127

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CH

SUBJECT: WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA NO. 52

- 1.2. DISCUSSION OF EDUCATION ISSUES SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY: CR POSITION REAFFIRMED
3. 4. KANG SHENG FUNERAL CEREMONIES & LEADERSHIP APPEARANCES
5. DCY ANNIVERSARIES AND MORE NUMBER COUNTING
6. LIAONING EARTHQUAKE: MORE REVELATION OF SERIOUSNESS
7. 8. NEW APPOINTMENTS AND REHABILITATIONS
9. 10. AFRICA
11. THE PARACELS
12. MORE RELEASED FORMER KMT PRISONERS
13. SOVIETS
14. TIMOR

SUMMARY: PEKING'S DISCUSSION OF EDUCATION POLICY HAS EXPANDED IN PROVINCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE TO A GENERAL REGIME REAFFIRMATION OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION POLICIES ON EDUCATION. NOVERTHELESS, PEKING HAS MADE SURE THAT GENERAL NATIONAL POLICY LINES ON DEVELOPMENT AND UNITY HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED. WANG HUNG-WEN RETURNED TO PEKING FOR THE FUNERAL OF KANG SHENG AND CHAO TZU-YANG HAS AT LONG-LAST BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE NEW BOSS OF SZECHWAN. EXTERNALLY, THE PRC HAS RELEASED ANOTHER GROUP OF FORMER KMT "PARTY, GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND SPECIAL AGENTS" PERSONNEL AND PROMISED ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WISHING TO RETURN TO TAIWAN. THE PRESIDENT OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE IS THE CURRENT STATE VISITOR IN PEKING AND CLASHED WITH HIS HOST, VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN, OVER THE ANGOLAN SITUATION IN BANQUET TOASTS. THE PRC ACTED PROMPTLY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS CONTROL OVER THE PARACELS IN RESCUING THE CREWS OF TWO GROUNDED SHIPS. END SUMMARY

1. DISCUSSION OF EDUCATION ISSUES SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY: CR POSITION REAFFIRMED

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THE DISCUSSION OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION (CR) CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHINA, PARTICULARLY IN THE EDUCATION FIELD (WR 51), REMAINS THE KEY TOPIC OF IDEOLOGICAL INTEREST FOR THE MOMENT. WITH PRESS INTERVIEWS BETWEEN TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS AND WESTERN REPORTERS REVEALING THAT THE LINE OF THOSE WHO TRIED TO MOVE FOR HIGHER ACADEMIC STANDARDS HAS BEEN DEFEATED AND ITS EXPONENTS BEGINNING TO ADMIT THEIR ERRORS, PEKING HAS ALLOWED THE CAMPAIGNING TO MOVE FURTHER INTO THE PROVINCIAL MEDIA FOR "DISCUSSION" OF THE

NEED TO ADHERE TO CR PRINCIPLES. ALTHOUGH IT IS ONE-SIDED IN ITS EFFORT TO REAFFIRM THE CONTRIBUTION OF EDUCATED-BY-CR-METHODS STUDENTS TO CHINESE SOCIETY, THE DISCUSSION STILL LEAVES ROOM FOR SOME MOVEMENT TO IMPROVE STANDS, ALBEIT PROBABLY NOT TO THE DEGREE DESIRED BY REFORM LEADERS. TWO KEY PERSONALITIES IN THE DEBATE, EDUCATION MINISTER CHOU JUNG-HSIN AND "LEFTIST/TSINGHUA REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CHIH CHUN, BOTH TURNED UP TO ATTEND KANG SHENG'S FUNERAL, INDICATING THAT CHOU NEED NOT NECESSARILY LOSE HIS JOB FOR PUSHING THE REFORM AND THAT CHIH HAS RETURNED TO GREATER FAVOR AFTER OVER A YEAR'S UNEXPLAINED ABSENCE. CONFIDENTIAL

2. MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, PEKING HAS REFUSED TO ALLOW THE EDUCATION DISCUSSIONS TO INTERRUPT OR DIVERT ATTENTION FROM NATIONAL GOALS. TAKING PAINS TO REAFFIRM "UNITY AND STABILITY" PEKING SEEMS INTENT OF MAKING SURE THAT THE EDUCATION ISSUE IS PLACED IN THE PROPER CONTEXT--AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN IN THE IDEOLOGICAL SPHERE WHICH IS LINKED WITH DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT, STUDY OF THE "WATER MARGIN", ETC. AS PART OF THE OVERALL EFFORT TO PREVENT BACKSLIDING INTO REVISIONISM. THE MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EDUCATION ISSUE AND THE OTHERS, HOWEVER, IS THAT EDUCATION INVOLVED SPECIFIC PERSONALITIES AND DIVERGENT POLICY LINES. PEKING, NEVERTHELESS, HAS MOVED TO KEEP ITS PRIORITIES IN LINE AND BOTH AT THE KANG SHENG FUNERAL--WHERE SUPPORT FOR CR CONTRIBUTIONS WAS AFFIRMED AS WELL--AND IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RELEASE OF FORMER KMT TROOPS AND OFFICIALS, PEKING PUT END-OF-CENTURY DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE "IMPROVING SITUATION" OF UNITY AND STABILITY IN CLEAR ARRAY. CONFIDENTIAL

3. KANG SHENG FUNERAL CEREMONIES & LEADERSHIP APPEARANCES

THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN KANG SHENG (WR 51)
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MARKED THE PUBLIC RETURN TO PEKING OF PARTY NUMBER THREE WANG HUNG-WEN FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE BEFORE THE JULY 30 ARMY DAY BANQUET. NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, WANG PRESIDED OVER THE CEREMONIES FOR KANG SHENG'S FUNERAL--SOMETHING HE DID EARLIER THIS YEAR WHEN TUNG PI-WU DIED--WHILE YEH CHIEN-YING DELIVERED THE EULOGY. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MAO, CHU TEH, PREMIER CHOU, AND THE INVALID LIU PO-CHENG, ALL POLITBURO MEMBERS, EXCLUDING THOSE FROM THE PROVINCES, ATTENDED THE FUNERAL CEREMONY. THU TEH, HOWEVER, PAID HIS RESPECT AT URN-SIDE A DAY EARLIER AND BOTH HE AND CHAIRMAN MAO TURNED OUT FOR MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE (ITEM 6). ON CHOU, HOWEVER, THE LATEST NEWS IS LESS ENCOURAGING WITH TENG YING-CHAO (MRS. CHOU) REPORTEDLY TELLING HAN SU-YIN THAT CHOU WAS NEARING THE END WITH A CANCEROUS BLADDER (PARIS 33080). CONFIDENTIAL

4. KANG SHENG'S FUNERAL STORY IN NCNA REVEALED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT CHANG TZU-SHIH, THE JULY APPOINTEE AS FIRST SECRETARY/REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IN THEN TROUBLED HANGCOW, IS THE SON OF KANG SHENG AND IDENTIFIED TWO OF SZECHWAN'S TOP OFFICIALS, MR COMMANDER CHIN WHI-WEI AND PARTY NUMBER TWO LI TA-CHANG AMONG CENTRAL COMMITTEE ATTENDEES, A FURTHER HINT THAT THE TWO MAY BE MOVING OUT OF SZECHWAN (HK 15026). IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF LEADERSHIP TURNOUTS CONNECTED WITH THE KANG SHENG FUNERAL, CHANG CHUN-CHIAO AND HUA KUO-FENG APPEARED TO GREET VISITING DELEGATIONS. THIS FOLLOWS A PERIOD IN WHICH THE LOW-APPEARANCE RATE OF POLITBURO OFFICIALS SUGGESTED THAT SOME TOP-LEVEL MEETINGS MAY HAVE BEEN HELD. CONFIDENTIAL

5. DCY ANNIVERSARIES AND MORE NUMBER COUNTING

THE EVER-CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO SEND EDUCATED YOUTH TO THE RURAL AREAS IS PASSING TWO ANNIVERSARIES OF MAO PRONOUNCEMENTS (SEE DIRIN DECEMBER 19 BROADCAST) THIS MONTH. NCNA DOMESTIC ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 23 THAT THE NUMBER OF DOWN-TO-THE-COUNTRY-SIDE YOUTH (DCY) HAD NOW RISEN TO 12 MILLION, UP SOME TWO MILLION SINCE THE LAST MAJOR COMPUTATION IN USE SINCE LAST YEAR. PROVINCIAL REPORTS OF DCY NUMBERS AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS SEEM TO CONFIRM A LARGER NUMBER OF DCY WERE SENT DOWN THIS YEAR ALTHOUGH FIGURES ARE FAR FROM COMPLETE. AMELIORATION OF CONDITIONS AND ENSURING THAT EXISTING

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POLICIES WERE BEING IMPLEMENTED RATHER THAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY NEW POLICIES APPEARS TO BE THE CURRENT FOCUS OF REGIME EFFORTS ON DCY (HK A-250). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

6. LIAONING EARTHQUAKE: MORE REVELATION OF SERIOUSNESS

THE DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS OF THE EARTHQUAKE WHICH OCCURED IN LIAONING EARLIER THIS YEAR (WR 7) HAS BEEN GRADUALLY AND INDIRECTLY REVEALED BY PEKING'S MEDIA. THE LATEST INFORMATION COMES IN A DECEMBER 15 (NCNA DOMESTIC) RELEASE WHICH NOTED THAT "NEARLY ONE MILLION HOUSES DAMAGED BY THE EARTHQUAKE HAVE BEEN REPAIRED AND MANY 'NEW' HOSPITALS, SHOPS AND SOCIALIST (NEW) VILLAGES BUILT" (EMPHASIS ON NEW ADDED). IN KEEPING WITH EARLIER POST-EARTHQUAKE STORIES FROM THE AREA, THE ARTICLE WAS UPBEAT IN ITS DESCRIPTION OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE AFFECTED AREA AND STATED THAT "GRAIN OUTPUT REACHED AN ALL-TIME HIGH." NCNA'S ENGLISH VERSION OF THE STORY ON DECEMBER 20, HOWEVER, LEFT OUT ANY REFERENCES TO THE MAJOR DAMAGE DONE IN THE AREA, INDICATING CONTINUED SENSITIVITY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION EA-09

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NY

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC

CHMAAG CHINA

COMUSTDC

CDR USACC TAIWAN

327 AIR DIV TAIPEI AS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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7. NEW APPOINTMENTS AND REHABILITATIONS

CONFIRMING EARLIER SPECULATION (WR 46). FORMER KWANGTUNG FIRST SECRETARY CHAI TZU-YANG HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS FIRST SECRETARY IN SZECHWAN, ALMOST TWO MONTHS AFTER WEI KUO-CHING MOVED OVER FROM KWANGSI PROVINCE INTO CHAO'S OLD SLOT(HK 14993). THE CLOSING OF THE TIBET PEASANTS' CONGRESS (DECEMBER 11) IDENTIFIED PROVINCIAL SECRETARY JE TI AS THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE TINET POOR AND LOWER-MIDDLE PEASANTS' ASSOCIATION (WR 50). ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE GENERAL LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT, WHICH CONTINUES TO EXPAND ITS MEMBERSHIP OF DEPUTY DIRECTORS, IS CHANG YUAN-PEI, A NAVAL OFFICER WHO HAD BEEN MISSING FROM VIEW BETWEEN MAY DAY 1970 AND NATIONAL DAY THIS YEAR(NCNA DECEMBER 22). LONG-ABSENT KIANGSU PARTY SECRETARY/NANKING MR POLITICAL COMMISSAR TU PING APPEARS TO HAVE MOVED UP TO PEKING WHERE A DECEMBER 23 NCNA ENGLISH RELEASE IDENTIFIED HIM AS A LEADING MEMBER OF THE GENERAL OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

8. IN ANOTHER KEY REHABILITATION OF TOP LEADERS, LONG-DIS CREDITED, FORMER SINKIANG BOSS WANG EN-MAO REAPPEARED AS A DEPUTY POLITICAL COMMISSAR IN THE NANKING MILITARY REGION. WANG, WHO RAN SINKIANG FOR 16 YEARS UP UNTIL THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, HAS TAKEN A SIZEABLE CUT IN RANK WITH HIS CURRENT POSITION PUTTING HIM BEHIND HIS FELLOW FIRST ARMY POLITICAL COMMISSAR

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AND MR COMMANDER TING SHEN, WHO HAD SERVED AS WANGS'S DEPUTY IN SINKIANG WHEN WANG WAS THE MR COMMANDER (SEE IR 6842 0742 75) RETURNING TO PUBLIC VIEW FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, FORMER SZECHWAN VICE GOVERNOR AND RURAL WORK EXPERT YANG WAN-HSUAN WAS IDENTIFIED AS A LEADING MEMBER OF THE SZECHWAN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT ORGANS (DECEMBER 19. BROADCAST). NCNA ENGLISH (DECEMBER 18) IDENTIFIED THE TRANSFER OF HSIEH CHEN-HAO AS DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE EAST CHINA SEA FLEET. HSIEH, LONG-IDENTIFIED WITH THE FLEET, HAD BEEN AN EARLY AP-POINTEE AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE REVOLUTIONALY COMMITTEE SET UP IN CHEKIANG AND A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE POST CR RECONSTITUTED-PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE. HE DISAPPEARED FROM VIEW
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WHEN THE PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP WAS SHAKEN UP IN JULY OF THIS YEAR. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

9. AFRICA

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE--

RESIDNET MANUAL PINTO DA COSTA OF

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE ARRIVED IN PEKING DECEMBER 21 TO THE NORMAL PEKING RED-CARPET TREATMENT, IS BEING HOSTED BY THIRD-RANKING (AND ECONOMIC SPECIALIST) VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN, AND HAS MET WITH BOTH CHAIRMAN MAO AND NPC CHAIRMAN CHU TEH. DA COSTA'S TRIP IS GEARED TO SEEKING PRC ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BUT THE HIGH POINT OF HIS VISIT THUR FAR HAS BEEN THE WEL-COMIN BANQUET TOASTS IN WHICH DA COSTA STEADFASTLY DEFENDED HIS POSITION ON RECOGNITION OF THE SOVEIT-BACKED MPLA-DO-MINATED REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA. LI, SPEAKING FIRST, HAD ALREADY BLAMED THE "SELF STYLED NATURAL ALLY OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE" FOR THE CURRENT ANGOLAN SITUATION AND INDICATED THAT UNITY AMONG THE THREE LIBERATION GROUPS WAS THE PATH TO SOLVING ANGOLA'S PROBLEMS. SINCE THE MEETING WITH CHARIMAN MAO CAME THE NEXT AFTERNOON, THE PRC LEADERSHIP HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED TO OVERLOOK THIS DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON ANGOLA AND IS PRESUMABLY PUTTING TOGETHER SOME SORT OF AID PACKAGE. (NCNA DECEMBER 21-23) (HK 15082) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

10. ANGOLA-THE MAJOR PRC MEDIA-GENERATED ARTICLE ON ANGOLA DURING THE WEEK WAS A PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE DECEMBER 19 STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE SOVIETS. CLAIMING THAT SOVIET INTERFERENCE WAS BASED ON ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE AFRICAN UNITY SO AS TO EXPLOIT AFRICA'S RICH RESOURCES, THE ARTICLE ENDED WITH A CALL TO THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO UNIFY. OTHER PRC MEDIA ATTENTION TO ANGOLA HAS PRIMARILY BEEN LIMITED TO REPLAYS OF VARIOUS AFRICAN COMMENT. (NCNA DECEMBER 18-24) THE PRC-OWNED TA KUNG PAO IN HONG KONG, HOWEVER, IN A DECEMBER 23 COMMENTARY NOTED THE US SENATE'S REFUSAL OF FUNDS FOR ANGOLA AND, IN APPROVING TERMS, CITED PRESIDNET FORD'S COMMENTS THAT SOVIET INTERVENTION WOULD HINDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF EAST-WEST DENTENTE. THIS THE COMMENTARY CLAIMED REFLECTED A DEEPER USG CONCERN OVER ANGOLA AND THE SOVIET ACTIONS THERE.(NCNA DECEMBER 18-23) UNCLASSIFIED

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1. THE PARACELS

THE PRC ACTED PROMPTLY TO SEND THEIR OWN RESCUE VESSELS TO THE AID OF TWO SHIPS(ONE THAI REGISTERED AND THE OTHER PANAMANIAN BUT OWNED BY A HONG KONG-MACU GROUP) GROUNDED IN THE PARACELS ISLANDS. PRESUMABLY THE PRC ACTION WAS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE CHINESE CONTROL OVER THE AREA AND, IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR A DUTCH TUGBOAT TO GO TO THE AREA, THE PRC POINTEDLY STATED THAT THE SHIPS WERE IN THE "HSISHAS, PROVINCE OF KWANGTUNG." ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE PRC MEDIA ACTION MIGHT WELL BE A WARNING TO HANOI, WHOSE OFFICIAL HAVE RECENTLY ADOPTED A FORMULA-

TION OF PLEDGING TO "DEFEND THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AIR SPACE, TERRITORIAL WATERS, BORDERS, ISLANDS, AND THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE REUNITED VIETNAM".. A STATEMENT WHICH SINCE THE DRV CLAIMS THE PARACELS AND SPRATLEYS, INCLUDES BOTH THE ISLAND GROUPS.(HK 15032)
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12. MORE RELEASED FORMER KMT PRISONERS

THE PRC DECEMBER 23 ANNOUNCED THE RELEASE OF "ALL FORMER KMT PARTY, GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND SPECIAL AGENCY PERSONNEL AT OR ABOVE COMPANY OR REGIMENTAL LEVEL." ALTHOUGH NO FIGURE WAS GIVEN FOR THE NUMBER OF RELEASEES, 72 NAMES WERE LISTED AS BEING "AMONG THESE PARDONED". THE ANNOUNCEMENT CLAIMED THIS DEMONSTRATES CHAIRMAN MAO'S "COMBINING PUNISHMENT WITH LENIENCY AND COMBINING REFORM THROUGH LABOR WITH IDEOLOGICAL EDUCATION" AS WELL AS REFLECTED THE "GROWING STABILITY AND UNITY OF THE SOCIALIST MOTHERLAND". POINTING OUT THE UNITED FRONT ASPECTS OF THE RELEASE THE ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT ALL THOSE WISHING TO RETURN TO TAIWAN MIGHT DO SO. THIS IS THE THIRD RELEASE OF KMT PRISONERS THIS YEAR: 293 KMT "WAR CRIMINALS" WERE RELEASED IN MARCH AND 144 "US-CHANG CLIQUE ARMED SPECIAL AGENTS" WERE RELEASED IN SEPTEMBER. THE WORDING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT, HOWEVER, LEAVES OPEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER FORMER KMT PRISONERS, PRESUMABLY OF LOWER RANK, ARE STILL IMPRISONED.(NCNA DECEMBER 23) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

13. SOVIETS

THE PRC MEDIA'S ANTI-SOVIET TREATMENT FOR THE WEEK CONCE-
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TRATED ON HEGEMONY AND, IN PASSING REFERENCES, ALSO ATTACKED THE US ROLE. THE EMPHASIS, HOWEVER, WAS ON THE INSATIABLE SOVIET DRIVE FOR WORLDWIDE HEGEMONY, WITH MAJOR ARTICLES DEALING WITH SOVIET DESIGNS ON ASIA, THE PERSIAN GULF EUROPE AND THE UNITED NATIONS. IN EACH ARTICLE, THE SOVIET ACTIONS WERE DEPICTED AS BEING STRONGLY OPPOSED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. WHO ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE TRUE NATURE OF SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM. THE ARTICLES ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORT REGIONAL GROUPING AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE. ON EUROPE'S THE NCNA REPLAYED FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S INTERVIEW WITH A FRENCH WEEKLY. (NCNA DECEMBER 17-23) UNCLASSIFIED

14. TIMOR

NCNA HAS CONTINUED (WR 51) REPLAYING VARIOUS STATEMENTS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE INDONESIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, THE DRVN, RSVN, AND FRETIILIN, ON TIMOR BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW PRC

COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION.

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